

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPROVING COURT COLLECTIONS IS GOAL OF BROAD-BASED COMMITTEE

LANSING, MI, October 17, 2005 – Courts throughout Michigan are represented on a committee aimed at improving the way court-imposed financial sanctions are collected.

The broad-based Collections Advisory Committee, which meets today at the Michigan Hall of Justice, is composed of judges, court administrators, and other court staff. The committee's recommendations will be the basis for a statewide court collections program.

Court fines support a number of state funds, including one for crime victims, said Judge Philip D. Schaefer, chairman of the Collections Advisory Committee.

"Collecting court fines, fees, and costs is a responsibility that the judicial branch owes to the public," said Schaefer, who is presiding judge of the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court Trial Division. "We have a duty to the public to make the courts as efficient as possible, and that includes recovering money that is owed to the court for traffic violations and misdemeanors."

Schaefer added, "Just as importantly, we have to hold offenders accountable, and that can only be done if we enforce the court's orders, while bearing in mind the inability of some offenders to pay."

Committee members include:

Hon. Philip D. Schaefer, Presiding Judge, Trial Division, Kalamazoo County Circuit Court
(Committee Chairman)

Hon. James M. Alexander, Presiding Judge, Family Division, Oakland County Circuit Court

Hon. Marylin E. Atkins, Chief Judge, 36th District Court, Detroit

Mr. Keith Beasley, Court Administrator, Macomb County Circuit Court

Ms. Renee Boggemes, Court Administrator, 45B District Court, Oak Park

Mr. Dan Dwyer, Court Administrator, Washtenaw County Circuit Court

Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr., Presiding Judge, Criminal Division, Wayne County Circuit Court

Ms. Lynda A. Hammerstein, Court Administrator, 52-3 District Court, Rochester Hills

Ms. Elena Kerasiotis, Collections Coordinator, Wayne County Circuit Court

Hon. Joseph Longo, Chief Judge, 43rd District Court, Ferndale

Hon. Kathleen J. McCann, Chief Judge, 16th District Court, Livonia

Ms. Barbara A. Menear, Circuit and Family Division Administrator, Genesee County Circuit Court

Hon. Julie A. Nicholson, 52-3 District Court, Rochester Hills

Mr. Kevin Oeffner, Court Administrator, Oakland County Circuit Court

Ms. Stacey Parke, Deputy Court Administrator, 47th District Court, Farmington Hills
 Hon. Donald A. Johnston III, Kent County Circuit Court (Co-Chair, Region II subcommittee)
 Mr. Michael J. Dillon, Court Administrator, 12th District Court, Jackson (Co-Chair, Region II subcommittee)
 Ms. Lou Ann Bluntschly, County Clerk, Lenawee County Circuit Court
 Mr. Mark Fetzer, Court Administrator, 2A District Court, Adrian
 Mr. Michael E. Flanery, Court Administrator, 60th District Court, Muskegon
 Hon. John R. Holmes, Chief Judge, 10th District Court, Calhoun County
 Mr. Jim Koetsier, Deputy Court Administrator, Kent County Circuit Court
 Hon. Janelle A. Lawless, Ingham County Circuit Court
 Ms. Tina Leary, County Clerk, Van Buren County Circuit Court
 Ms. Linda Lenahan, Court Administrator, 57th District Court, Allegan
 Hon. Donald H. Passenger, 61st District Court, Grand Rapids
 Mr. Brian E. Ray, Trial Court Administrator, Berrien County Trial Court
 Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain, Chief Judge, Isabella County Trial Court (Chair, Region III subcommittee)
 Hon. Craig D. Alston, Chief Judge, 74th District Court, Bay City
 Mr. David Cable, Court Administrator, Saginaw County Circuit Court
 Hon. Kim David Glaspie, Chief Judge, 71B District Court, Caro
 Hon. David A. Hoort, 8th Circuit Court (Ionia and Montcalm counties)
 Ms. Barbara C. Jennings, Office Manager, Isabella County Trial Court
 Mr. Jerome Kole, Trial Court Administrator, Midland County Trial Court
 Ms. Marge Marchlewicz, Family Division Administrator, Bay County Circuit Court
 Ms. Carol A. Vernon, County Clerk, Gratiot County Circuit Court
 Hon. David L. Stowe, Chief Judge, Grand Traverse County Probate Court (Chair, Region IV subcommittee)
 Ms. Belinda A. Cole, Court Administrator, 93rd District Court, Schoolcraft County
 Ms. Diane S. Cork, County Clerk, Chippewa County Circuit Court
 Hon. Charles D. Corwin, Chief Judge, 28th Circuit Court (Missaukee and Wexford counties)
 Hon. Alton T. Davis, Michigan Court of Appeals (formerly Chief Judge, 46th Circuit Trial Court (Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego counties))
 Mr. Rudi Edel, Trial Court Administrator, 46th Circuit Trial Court (Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego counties)
 Ms. Bonnie Friedrichs, County Clerk, Alpena County Circuit Court
 Hon. Garfield W. Hood, Chief Judge, 12th Circuit Court (Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw counties)
 Hon. Mark E. Luoma, Chief Judge, 93rd District Court (Alger and Schoolcraft counties)
 Ms. Carolyn A. Povich, Court Administrator, Delta County Circuit Court
 Ms. Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk, Wexford County Circuit Court
 Ms. Carol Stocking, Court Administrator, 86th District Court (Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau counties)
 Ms. Lori Ann Willman, Trial Court Administrator, Iron County Trial Court

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